28 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Thursday, September 26, 1968

Gallaher's Interim Dividend Is 4.8 Cents, Same as in '67

LONDON—Gallaher Ltd., the British tobacco concern that American Tobacco Co., recently acquired control of, declared a 4.8-cent interim dividend on its $1.20 par value common, unchanged from last year's interim payout.

The dividend won't be paid until Dec. 6, a month late, "because of the great volume of share registrations work resulting from the successful American Tobacco offer," Gallaher said.

Mark Norman, chairman, said that the company's forecast on Aug. 5 of a 1968 pretax group profit of at least $40 million and a total dividend of 16% "still stands today."

American Tobacco acquired a 67% interest in Gallaher through an offer to shareholders and open market purchases this summer.

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September, 1968, VENDING TIMES...9

L&M And Ragu Agree On Merger

NEW YORK CITY -- Milton E. Harrington, president of Liggett & Myers Inc., and Ralph Cantisano, president of Ragú Packing Co., Inc., producer of spagetti sauces, Italian food products and other related lines under the "Ragú" name, announced agreement on the terms of a merger of Ragu into Liggett & Myers, Inc.

The merger is subject to approval by directors and stockholders of Liggett & Myers and to a favorable tax ruling from the Internal Revenue Service.

Ragu stock, which is closely held, would be exchanged for convertible preferred stock of Liggett & Myers.

On completion of the transaction, the business of Ragú will be operated by its present management as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Liggett & Myers. No changes in Ragú's methods of operation are contemplated.

Liggett & Myers recently announced agreement in principle on the terms of a merger of Austin, Nichols & Co., Inc. into Liggett & Myers. It is expected that both mergers will be submitted to Liggett & Myers' stockholders at a special meeting this fall.

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September 26, 1968
United States Tobacco Journal

L&M Agrees To Buy Brite Watchbands

Pushing an accelerated diversification program, Liggett & Myers Inc. has reached an agreement with Brite Industries, Inc., of Providence, R. I., for the acquisition of that firm, a major supplier of popular-priced replacement watchbands and jewelry.

No terms were disclosed in the announcement of the agreement, made jointly by Milton E. Harrington, president of Liggett & Myers, and Samuel Friedman, president of Brite Industries.

However, the announcement said that Brite would continue to be operated under its present management as a wholly owned Liggett & Myers subsidiary.

In a statement to UNITED STATES TOBACCO JOURNAL, Mr. Friedman stressed that there is "no contemplation of any kind of change" in the Brite operation.

"The only change, as a subsidiary of

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L&M Agrees To Buy Brite Watchbands

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Liggett & Myers, will be in the bookkeeping," he said.

The acquisition is expected to be completed early next week.

Brite, a family-held business, was founded by Mr. Friedman in 1919 in New York City. The company was moved to Providence in 1948.

With its agreement with Brite, Liggett & Myers now has proposed acquisitions pending with three companies. The other two are Ragu Packing Co. of Rochester, N. Y., maker of Ragu spaghetti sauces and other Italian food specialties, and Austin, Nichols & Co., a major liquor distiller, importer and distributor.

Approved By Managements

The Austin, Nichols merger has been approved by both managements and shareholders of both companies will be asked to approve the transaction at November meetings.

The Brite acquisition will probably be the first completed by Liggett & Myers this year. The tobacco company began its diversification drive in 1964 with the acquisition of Allen Products Co. (Alpo dog foods). It subsequently acquired Paddington Corp. and Carillon Importers Ltd., both liquor firms, in 1966, and National Oats Co. (Cream of Oats and 3-Minute cereals) in 1967.

According to the latest figures from Liggett & Myers, the company now does approximately 25 per cent of its annual sales in non-tobacco products.

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